



Technical Information

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Update

Turn your TV into a Resource for Neighborhood Networks

Did you know that Internet access is available for television sets?

You don't need a computer and there's no software to load. All you need is a television, a phone line, and a WebTV Internet terminal, and you can use the World Wide Web.

Proponents say WebTV will introduce the Internet to millions of people who don't own a personal computer but still want to use the Internet. With a price tag far cheaper than a personal computer's and the ease of use, it makes the Internet simple, affordable, and accessible.

Since its October 1996 introduction, retailers have sold more than 30,000 WebTV boxes, according to manufacturers.

By turning a TV set into an Internet access terminal, residents at your Neighborhood Networks Centers can explore the World Wide Web with ease. Using WebTV also eliminates the need for basic computer skills' training prior to using the Internet.

What does it cost? The box and remote control sell for approximately \$325; the online service costs about \$20 a month. An optional keyboard sells for about \$75. In comparison, the hardware is about \$650 cheaper than the least expensive personal computer, while the monthly service is in line with other Internet providers. Check with your partners; they may be more able to donate a television than a whole personal computer system.

Who makes it and where do I find it? The WebTV Internet terminal is manufactured by Sony (1-888-813-7069) and by Philips/Magnavox (1-888-813-7069) and can be found in consumer electronic stores or where you shop for TVs.

Is it hard to set up? The manufacturers say that it's "easier to set up than a VCR" and takes about 15 minutes, according to *The Washington Post*.

For more information on this exciting development, visit the following website: <http://www.webtv.net/pc/wisit.shtml>

